

LEGISLATURE MAY PASS LAW AGAINST FIREWORKS

Personal and Property Rights Demand Protection

Richmond Virginian of December 26th, in discussing the Christmas fireworks, says:

There was considerable discussion yesterday over the possibility of a bill being introduced in the next Legislature as a companion bill to the well-known Byrd liquor law, which prevents the sale of intoxicants on Christmas. The bill in question may be offered against the sale of fireworks in Virginia, except under the most restricted police regulation for occasions of a public nature, where these fireworks are in the hands of men who understand them and can be held responsible for their proper use.

Aside from the mere danger of fire and injury to the users there was a new reason advanced yesterday which had its beginning in the fact that the police were kept on the run all day watching corners where there was sickness and where the use of fireworks was extremely annoying to the sick.

Back of it all there is no possible reason why disturbing noises should be held to be entertaining. Just why the beautiful Christmas season should be made the occasion for burned hands, fingers, and faces, to say nothing of fires, fights and disorders has never been discovered.

That some action will be taken in this matter is more than a mere possibility. From the results of yesterday a bill is already being considered which will probably take form before the coming Legislature closes.

To Carry Mail by Fast Freight

Postmaster General Hitchcock intends to extend the practice of carrying second-class mail by fast freight trains. He so stated in an answer he filed in the United States Circuit Court in the case of the Review of Reviews Company, complaining of unjust discrimination because its magazines were carried by freight instead of by mail trains through the Middle West for distribution to far-distant points.

The Postmaster General says the government lost 7 cents a pound on all second class matter transported from New York to the Pacific coast by mail trains in 1907-1908, but that since early this year when the fast freight rule was enforced on certain periodicals issued at intervals of a week or more, a saving of \$1,400,000 has been made. The rule has so far been applied only to the so-called third central section, but as soon as contracts with railroads in three other sections expire the rule will be enforced there. This, says the Postmaster General, will make an annual saving of \$3,000,000 in the transportation of second-class mail.

As the time draws nigh for the assembling of the Legislature there are all sorts of rumors afloat concerning the redistricting of the State. Some time ago something of a stir was made by the rumor that the First district was to be so gerrymandered as to throw William A. Jones into the Seventh. Now comes a statement from Petersburg that Congressman Glass of the Sixth district, who opposed Senator Swanson for the United States Senate in the September primary is a marked man and that if all other methods appear foredoomed to failure a gerrymander may be resorted to in his case.

Mr. Clarence Poe, who went to China last year found out that the Chinaman has a rule to settle every debt at New Year's, and it doesn't matter what sacrifice he must make; he gets square with the world and starts the twelvemonth with a clean sheet, a clear conscience and a smile—even if he has only rice enough left to last the family a week and mighty little clothing except his pigtail.

There are said to be 12,000 of the "morally insane" in New York at the present time.

A man thinks a woman is clever who can make him think he is.

LEAP YEAR WOMAN'S CHANCE TO PROPOSE

Royal Edict Conferred Upon Her This Privilege

HESITATE TO EXERCISE RIGHT

Not All Conversant With Prematrimonial Right

Although most women are well aware of the great privilege which they may enjoy during leap year it is not to be presumed that they are all equally conversant with the fact that their prematrimonial right was originally secured to them by a statute law of England enacted in 1606, under James I, (1603-1625) which readeth thus:

"Albeit it is now become a part of the common laws, in regard to the social relations of life, that so often as everie besextile year doeth returne the ladies have the sole privilege during the time continueth of making love unto the men, which they may doe, either by words or by looks as unto them seemeth proper; moreover, no man will be entitled to the benefit of clergy who dothe refuse to accept the offers of a ladye, or who dothe in any wise treat her proposals with slight and contumely."

A Scotch statute of 1288, under Alexander II (1214-1249) however, preceded the above and will appear to be even more stringent.

"It is statet and ordaind that during the year of his maist blisssit majeste ilk fourth year known as leap year ilk maiden layd of both high and low estait shall hae liberty to bespeak ye man she likes abit, if he refuses to take her to be his wife, he shall be mulcted in the sum of one poundis or less, as his estait may be, except and anis if he can make it appear that he is betrothed to ane woman, that he shall then be free."

Magic of the Unwritten Page New Year's Day

In the January Woman's Home Companion, Dr. Charles E. Jefferson, pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle in New York City, writes a wonderful New Year's sermon, entitled "Turning the Leaf." In the course of this sermon, he shows as follows why it is that we all are inspired with hope for the future on New Year's Day:

"It is because we are touched by the magic of the clean page that we begin each year with the cheery salutation, 'I wish you a Happy New Year!' We dare say it to everybody. No matter what the old year was, we still expect bright things from the new one. Even to those whom the old year has battered and mangled, we are bold to give jubilant greetings. This is because of the native hopefulness of the soul. We instinctively believe in the goodness of the Eternal, and because God is King of all souls and all years, we know that numberless lovely things are possible. On the first day of the year we are certain of our freedom. We can get out of our rut. We can escape from our prison. The sight of the clean page cleanses the eyes."

\$3,300,000 for Southern Education

Another great gift to further public education in the Southern States of this Union, to be finally \$3,300,000, was announced appropriately last week by the trustees of the Peabody Education Fund of New York, of whom Joseph H. Choate is chairman. The announcement is addressed "To the Friends of Education in America."

The trustees declare that, in pursuance to the permission given them by the founder, George Peabody, they have voted to close the trust and distribute the moneys remaining in their hands.

Guided by an ancient chart found in the ruins of a Spanish shellhouse on Fort George Island, two boys of Jacksonville, Fla., say they have unearthed Spanish treasure worth about \$150,000. They say the gold, silver and copper coins were found in a strong box buried about 6 feet deep.

Woman Is Disfiguring Her Beauty and Deforming Her Nature

By Bishop JOHN J. NILAN of Hartford, Conn.

DURING these days we hear a great deal of women's RIGHTS which are really women's WRONGS. I know not whether women will ever get what they term equality with men. Man and woman are EQUAL IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, but here below woman occupies a DIFFERENT station. She was created to be man's HELPMATE and to supplement what he LACKED. She was to be KIND and GENTLE and PATIENT under long suffering.

THE MASTER OF FASHIONS SEEMS TO BE PREPARING HER TO TAKE HER PLACE ALONG WITH MAN BY SHAPING HER GARMENTS SO THAT THEY MORE AND MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLE MAN'S ATTIRE, WITH THE RESULT THAT SHE DISFIGURES HER BEAUTY AND DEFORMS HER NATURE. GONE IS THE OLD TIME WOMANLY EXPRESSION OF SWEETNESS AND MODESTY, AND IN ITS PLACE WE HAVE THE SWAGGER AND THE STARE.

You should educate your children and mold the little girls' characters so that they will look as sweet and innocent as possible.

Blood is on the Moon for Staunton G. O. P.

Tell it not in Gath! But if you must tell it, whisper it ever so gently! Staunton's two biggest and best Republican leaders, men who have swayed the local G. O. P. as a unit and dispensed the toothsome pie at will, now pass each other on the street and seeing, see not! Nor will U. S. Marshall R. A. Fulwiler and Postmaster S. Brown Allen exchange either gifts or greetings at this gladsome Christmas tide. For there is war in the Republican camp, and everybody knows what war is! The real big fight will come when the time for naming delegates to the Chicago convention rolls around. The battlefield is being laid off for the fracas and the puppet voters are being marshalled for the final charge! But which shall deliver the delegation to President Taft, Allen or Fulwiler? Aye, that is the question!

Meanwhile the Staunton Democrats are tickled most to death. So long have these two renowned leaders sat on the fence and sicked on the dogs of war in their camp that they glory in the rumpus among the Republicans, and figuratively speaking, openly hope that each will annihilate the other.—Staunton Leader.

Scribner's January Magazine

The January issue of Scribner's Magazine is the twenty-fifth anniversary number. Portraits of three famous contributors during that time—Stevenson, Meredith, and Barrie—form the frontispieces of the number. The announcement pages contain a summary of some of the notable contributions to the magazine which have become a part of the significant and lasting literature.

"Abbey's Last Mural Paintings," which have just been put in place in the Pennsylvania State Capitol, are described by Royal Cortissoz, and illustrated with reproductions of the complete decorations, as well as many of Mr. Abbey's original sketches and studies.

The art features include three illustrations in color by Henry McCarter, to accompany a poem by Thomas Walsh, Garth Jones's decorations for Dr. van Dyke's stories and an article on Joseph Israels in the Field of Art.

Reading a paper on "Neolithic Man in British Columbia" before the Archaeological Institute of America at Pittsburg, Pa., Charles Hill-Trout of Abbotsford, British Columbia, told of a skeleton recently found in that country which indicates that researches are no closer to a knowledge of where civilization began than they were 50 years ago, and that it cannot be claimed for Egypt that it is the cradle of civilization. Describing the skull of the skeleton, Mr. Hill-Trout said it belonged to more than ordinary long-headed race. The skeleton, he said, was not less than 20,000 years old, and until its discovery the investigations carried on by the institute had extended back only 5,000 years.

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Congressman C. B. Slemm Marries in Louisiana

A dispatch from New Orleans under date of December 28th, says: Congressman Campbell Bascom Slemm of Big Stone Gap, representing the Ninth Virginia district in Congress, and Miss Roberta T. Barton of St. Emma Plantation, were married here at 5 o'clock Wednesday evening. The ceremony was performed at Christ church cathedral, the Rev. William A. Barr, officiating. It was the ending of a romance between the Virginia Congressman and the fair daughter of Louisiana, which had its inception at Virginia Hot Springs two years ago.

Miss Barton is a charming Louisiana girl, and comes from a family long associated with the development of Ascension Parish. She is the daughter of Mrs. E. H. Barton, a family holding some of the largest sugar estates on the bayou.

Shortly before 5 o'clock the party entered a large automobile at the St. Charles hotel and went to Christ church cathedral, where all was in waiting. Mrs. Sims, sister of the bride, gave her away in marriage while Miss Etta Emmett was maid of honor and Miss Louise A. Yarr was bridesmaid. F. D. Armstrong was best man, and Raymond Martinez was groomsmen.

After the ceremony of the Episcopal church a wedding supper was served. Congressman and Mrs. Slemm will arrive in Washington in time for the re-opening of congress.

Congressman Slemm's desire to avoid a "hiz wedding", it is understood, caused him to run down to New Orleans a few days ago and plead with his fiancée for an early marriage. The Virginia congressman eventually had his way.

Opposes Divorce for Any Cause

"Abolish the divorce laws of Michigan" is the advice of Judge E. D. Kinne, who has sat on the circuit bench of Ann Arbor, Mich., for the last quarter of a century.

"Hitherto, as a rule, I have administered the law as I found it on the statute books," said Judge Kinne. "It seemed to me that divorce was the only escape from brutality, wretchedness and hopeless unhappiness; but of late the privilege of divorce has been so misused and I have witnessed such flagrant disregard for truth, morality and decency that my former convictions have experienced considerable modification, if not revolution."

"Doubtless some good may come from agitation, surveillance and revision, but they will not successfully meet the issue."

"In my opinion there is just one way to solve this problem. Let the next Legislature enact a law that never again for any cause whatsoever shall there be granted a divorce from the bonds of matrimony in the State of Michigan. In certain cases let there be a decree of separation, but no dissolution of the marriage contract."

Home-made things are often the best. Especially is this true of the home-made man.

THE ENABLING ACT NOW SEEMS CERTAIN

Majority of Legislators Desire Submission to Voters

CITIES OPPOSE THE MEASURE

Rural Districts Will No Doubt Vote For Statewide

Indications are that the enabling act, long sought by the Anti-Saloon League, giving the people the right to vote on State-wide prohibition, will probably be adopted by the Legislature which is to convene in January.

These indications are gleaned from replies to letters sent out by the Richmond News Leader in order to get expressions as to the attitude of the legislators in regard to State-wide prohibition.

The canvass of the vote, while yet incomplete, because a number of members have failed to submit their views and tell how they will vote, shows that several of the most prominent legislators are working for State-wide prohibition.

The General Assembly, as made up of senators and delegates is shown by name, and the tabulated list shows 30 avowed voters for the State-wide bill, with 8 senators and delegates, who will vote for the measure, provided 25 per cent of the constituents so petition. Against the State-wide bill are 22 members of the General Assembly.

Norfolk, Roanoke, Richmond, Harrisonburg and Newport News are scheduled as places that will fight the State-wide prohibition bill, while it will have as its champions such strong men as Speaker Richard E. Byrd, Senator Charles U. Gayatt of Caroline county; Dr. H. U. Stephenson of Toano; the Hon. Martin Williams, floor leader of the House; Col. A. M. Bowman of Salem; Judge D. C. Cummings of Washington county and Howard C. Featherstone of Lynchburg.

Large Apple Company

The Virginia Apple Company, capitalized at \$900,000, has just been organized in Augusta county. The company recently purchased hundreds of acres of land on the western slope of the Blue Ridge, near Waynesboro, and have within the past few months planted 150 acres in commercial apple orchards.

The company is composed of scientific apple growers from the Bitter Root Valley of Montana. This location was chosen by the Montana growers after traveling hundreds of miles in search of suitable soil and equable climate. In their travel the famous apple sections of many states were visited.

The past week the company purchased 1,600 acres, which will be added to its already vast real estate holdings.

Samuel W. Craig of Waynesboro, has recently set out 10,000 trees of the famous Albemarle Pippin and the Lawry, apples famed on American and English markets for their delicious and peculiar flavor.

Mongolia, which almost equals China proper in size, was proclaimed independent, simultaneously with cutting off from China of the vast dependency of Turkestan. Both will pass under Russian influence and will practically become Russian protectorates. Russia at any time will be able to annex them. A grand khan will be named as monarch of Mongolia. The construction of the trans-Mongolian railway, for which Russia has long sought permission from China, will now be only a matter of time. Russian influence will flank the Japanese sphere in Manchuria perilously, and a Japanese alliance for the sake of preserving Japanese interests may sooner or later be expected.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock has authorized Postmaster Thomas E. Wallace of Wilmington, N. C., to establish a temporary aeroplane post-office at the aviation meet to be given by managing director Fanciulli of the Curtis aeroplane squad on the sea shore near Wilmington this week.

MR. FLOOD ANXIOUS TO AID FRUIT MEN

Bill to Make Cold Storage Houses Submit Reports

Congressman H. D. Flood, representative from the Tenth Virginia District, spent the Christmas holidays in Winchester.

In conversation with a representative of the Star, Mr. Flood announced his intention of shortly introducing a bill in Congress to compel the cold storage houses to make monthly reports to the Department of Agriculture of the number of barrels of apples in storage, and have the Secretary of Agriculture consolidate this information and issue the same to fruit growers and organizations.

The passage of this bill would give accurate information to the fruit growers of the number of barrels of apples in storage and would be of inestimable benefit in determining the prices the growers should obtain for their fruit.

At the present time the apple buyers are organized and they obtain each month confidential information of apples in storage.

This bill would be along the same lines of a bill recently passed by Congress to compel the tobacco warehouses to report the amount of tobacco in storage.

Mr. Flood also said that he would use his influence with the Department of Agriculture to have the estimates of the apple crop made in barrels and not in percentages, as estimates in barrels would be of much greater benefit to the apple growers.

Mr. Flood realizes the great importance the apple industry will eventually become to the State of Virginia, and is anxious to assist in its development by securing any proper and favorable legislation that may be needed.

Preacher Writes Ten Commandments For Women

The Rev. Dr. Albert Marion Hyde of the Porter Congregational church, the wealthiest church in Brocton, Mass., has written commandments for women. Four of these are as follows:

Thou shalt not marry for a bank account, or for a home, or even to escape being an old maid. It is better to remain single than to enter the marriage state for revenge only. After the marriage thou shalt not forget that thy husband is still a man. If thou put on an old wrapper and leave thy hair on the bureau and wear slippers run down at the heel the thoughts that arise in thy husband would not look well in print.

Thou shalt not let loose on thy husband, or thy sons, or thy daughters, or thy father, or thy mother on ironing day or wash day or baking day. If thy tongue is hung in the middle and wags at both ends thy husband will remember it is lodge night and will have a great desire to initiate a friend.

Thou shalt not spell home in any new way—not as club, or matinee, or even church social.

A Turkey Country

The turkeys raised in Rockingham county this season are estimated to be worth to the farmers \$100,000.

The Harrisonburg Daily News, from which point the bulk of the turkeys raised in that county are shipped, presents fairly accurate figures to establish this fact. The Christmas market took 265,000 pounds, for which the shippers paid 14 cents a pound. An equal amount was shipped for the Thanksgiving season, making a total of \$74,000. It is estimated that 40 per cent remain to be sold, which would more than make the \$100,000, a good income for the farmers' wives, for it is the women who are the turkey raisers.

These turkeys brought to the Virginia women, who raised them, 14 cents a pound. The same turkeys in Baltimore and New York, where they were shipped, sold for from 30 to 40 cents per pound. It would seem that someone else than the Virginia farmer profits by the high cost of living.